



Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (SCS SAP) Project

Second Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC)

23-25 July 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

Report of Status and Progress of the SCS SAP Project implementation

PHILIPPINES

**Society for the Conservation of Philippines Wetlands
(SCPW)**





Updated National Coordination Framework

Focal Ministry: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Executing (leading) Agency: Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW)

Key Partner Organizations: Community-Centered Conservation (C3), Philippines, Local Governments and Agencies

National Focal Points: TBD

National Technical Focal Point: TBD

Focal Point for mangroves: TBD

Focal Point for coral reefs: TBD

Focal Point for seagrass beds: TBD

Focal Point for wetlands: TBD

Focal Points for LbP: TBD

Focal expert on Economic Valuation: TBD

Focal expert for Legal Matters: TBD

Status of PCA/GSA signature

Target Date of signing the GSA with all three (3) Components:

2nd week of August, 2024

Challenges resulting in the delay:

Despite the delay caused by the DENR's lack of formal communication, UNOPS/PCU, with the assistance of the NC, explored other execution modalities. They have proactively engaged with the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW), a suitable partner with a shared mandate and interest in coastal ecosystem conservation, to explore an alternative implementation modality.

Solutions to speed up:

NC, with support from the PCU, worked full-time with SCPW after securing their Board of Trustees' approval and proceeded with the drafting of the GSA. The final draft, which passed the SCPW review, is now being reviewed by UNOPS.



Progress in implementing the signed PCA/GSA

Timing Issues (On time, Delayed, Extended):

Delayed/Extended: The new timeline for implementing activities is from the 4th Quarter of 2024 to the 4th Quarter of 2026.

List of Changed Activities and Reasons:

- SCPW and PCU agreed to scale down outputs, number of sites, and activities originally proposed by DENR.
- Sites dropped: El Nido, Bolinao, San Vicente, Ulugan Bay, and Masinloc. Targets absorbed by Busuanga and Coron.
- Reduces logistical, personnel, and operational needs, ensuring commitments are met with available resources.
- Clustering mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrass in Busuanga and Coron demonstrates ecosystem interconnectivity.
- Fish Refugia on Uson Island in Coron benefits from adjacent conservation and management.
- Significant startup delay and short implementation time necessitate scaling down as a practical approach.



Component	National SAP Target (hectares)	Achievement (hectares)	Implementing Agencies and Partners	Co-Financing (US\$)
Mangrove	5,631	13,001	PCSD, NGP, LAWIN .DENR Field Offices etc.	3,755,778.75
Coral Reefs	12,500	19,193	LGUs, Greenfins Implementation, Integrated Coastal Resources Management Program (ICRMP), DENR Field Offices etc.	1,678,251.63
Seagrass	12,500	13,090	Greenfins Implementation, BBBIDA MPAN, CMEMP, DENR Field offices etc.	232,963.61
Wetlands	54,515	240,994	MPMPC, DENR- NGP, Manila Bay Fund, SBMCHEA, DENR Field offices etc.	219,391.34

PCSD: Palawan Council for Sustainable Development; **NGP:** National Greening Program; **LAWIN:** Landscape and Wildlife Indicator; **BBBIDA MPAN:** Marine Protected Area; **CMEMP:** Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program; **SBMCHEA:** Sasmuan Bangkung MNalapad Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area

SOURCE: DENR BMB Report and presentation during the 1st RSTC Meeting in Bangkok 17-19 October 2022

Status in documenting good practices

MANGROVES

Existing Ecoparks in the Philippines:

- Katunggan It Ibajay (KII) and Bakaw Ecopark in Aklan.
- Leganes Integrated Katunggan Ecopark (LIKE) in Iloilo.

Community-Based Mangrove Rehabilitation:

- Emphasizes community participation and engagement.
- Utilizes indigenous mangrove species.
- Adopts ecological engineering approaches using natural materials (bamboo, coir, mangrove propagules) to stabilize shorelines and create marine habitats.
- Involves multi-sectoral collaboration
- Katunggan It Ibajay (KII) and Bakaw Ecopark in Aklan.
- Leganes Integrated Katunggan Ecopark (LIKE) in Iloilo.



CORAL REEFS

Community Engagement and Participation:

- Foster collaboration and empower local communities to take ownership of coral reef conservation efforts
- Conduct awareness campaigns and education programs to promote understanding and appreciation of coral reef ecosystems.
- Involve communities in monitoring, enforcement, and sustainable management of marine protected areas
- Employing Citizen Science methods to build capacity and actively engage members of local communities in coral reef monitoring and management

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and MPA Networks

Sustainable Fishing Practices

Ecosystem-Based Approaches

Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

Time of finalization and submission for publication:



SEAGRASS

Community-Based Management:

Involves local communities in monitoring, protecting, and restoring seagrass ecosystems.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):

Designated areas crucial for seagrass conservation by regulating human activities to protect marine resources.

Their establishment is a significant milestone in the Philippines' seagrass conservation efforts.

Seagrass Mapping and Monitoring:

Programs crucial for understanding seagrass distribution and health.

Data from these programs inform conservation and management strategies.

Restoration and Rehabilitation:

Aims to restore damaged seagrass beds with active local community participation.

Successfully restored seagrass beds through these programs.





WETLANDS

National Wetlands Action Plan (NWAP):

- Launched by DENR in 2013 and updated in 2017 to conserve and manage the country's wetlands, including coastal wetlands.
- Emphasizes increasing public awareness, strengthening institutional arrangements, and promoting sustainable wetland management.

Integration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP):

- Recognizes the sustainable living practices of indigenous peoples with wetland ecosystems.
- Utilizes their traditional knowledge and practices for wetland conservation and management.

Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM):

- Addresses the significant threat of solid waste pollution to coastal wetlands.
- Implemented the ESWM Act in 2000, mandating local governments to adopt sustainable waste management practices

Participation in the Special Forum on South China Sea and Roundtable

- **Total participants:**

- Number of local representatives: Two (2)
- Number of presenters in the forum: Three (3)
- Number of talks in the roundtable: Three (3)

- **Highlights on networking following the special forum:**

- Implementation of MOA between MPIF and Mabini LGU on local Bantay Dagat capacity building (marine law enforcement, SCUBA certification, logistical support, e.g., rubber boat, radio, GPS, etc..)
- MOA between PNP Maritime Group and Mbini LGU on Adopt a Marine Protected Area (AMPA)
- Donation and installation of mooring buoys from Rotary Club San Juan Del Monte





Challenges Encountered in the Implementation of the SCS SAP Project and Recommendations

Present (Anticipated) Challenges

- Outputs, target sites, and hectarages require immediate validation and ground truthing

Recommendations

- Planning and organization for the immediate conduct of site surveys and on-site (preferably in Busuanga/Coron) detailed planning workshops as priority activities to be participated in by all project staff and local stakeholders/partners

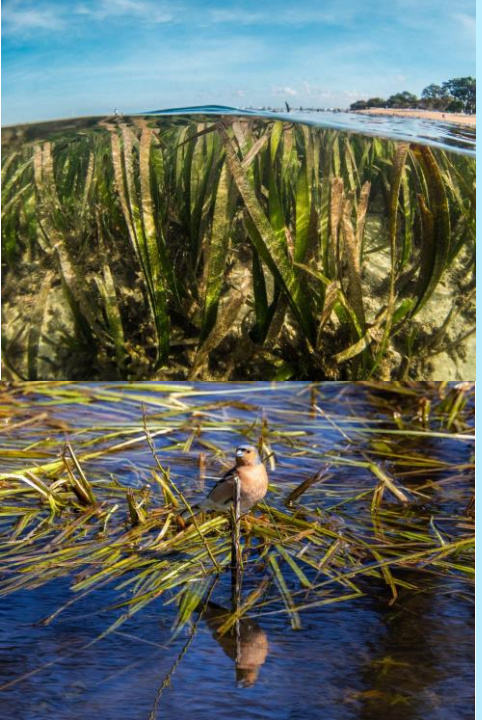
Action points

- Completion of UNOPS Capacity Assessment of SCPW; Immediate signing of GSA; Drafting and signing of Sub-grant Agreement between SCPW and C3; release of 1st tranche; courtesy call with critical stakeholders and partners; preparation of TORs for staff and consultants

National data and knowledge management systems and tools (Agenda 6)

The BMB's Biodiversity Policy and Knowledge Management Division (BPKMD)

- integrates and analyzes biodiversity conservation policies, plans, and programs in alignment with national and international strategies, including the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and ASEAN commitments.
- Oversees bureau-wide planning, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation and provides mechanisms to improve plans and programs. BPKMD also develops and maintains databases and information systems, evaluates proposals with biodiversity components for funding mechanisms like the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and performs other assigned functions.





The Policy, Program Planning, and Monitoring Section (PPPMS)

- Integrates and analyzes policies, guidelines, and plans for biodiversity conservation; supports program monitoring and documentation of best practices,
- Assist in developing communication and awareness programs.
- Identifies research needs, coordinates activities for international commitments,
- Evaluate project accomplishments, prepare national reports for CBD
- Provide technical assistance to field offices.



The Knowledge and Information Management Section (KIMS)

- Formulates policies and plans for biodiversity information management
- Maintains the Bureau's databases and websites, and supports the Bureau's roles in CBD, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility
- Gathers and analyzes biodiversity information, provides data to stakeholders, develops GIS-based databases, and disseminates information on protected areas and other biodiversity-rich environments
- Provides technical assistance and updates spatial information on important conservation areas.



The Philippine Clearing House Mechanism (www.philchm.ph) is the official website of the Philippine Clearing House Mechanism Network that provides relevant information and current status of Philippine biodiversity including relevant policies, programs and strategies undertaken towards its conservation and protection . This is part of the country's commitment to the [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#)